

# Welcome to our Churches

[www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk](http://www.mickleoveranglicans.org.uk)

## All Saints

Etwall Road, Mickleover,  
DE3 0DL  
01332 510446



## St Andrew's

School Lane, Radbourne,  
DE6 4LY



## St John's

Devonshire Drive,  
Mickleover, DE3 9HD  
01332 513363



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Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026



## Services In Our Churches This Sunday

- MA Holy Communion at St John's, 10am. Peter Walley will be speaking.
- No service at All Saints this week

Link for Sunday's service: <https://mickleoveranglicans.org.uk/you-tube-services/>

### Collect

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us  
the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory. Amen.

### This Sunday's Reading

Psalm 118: 1, 2, 19-end,  
Matthew 2: 11-11

### Next Sunday's Reading

1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26  
John 13: 1 - 17, 31b - 35

## Midweek Services and Groups

- Mondays: **St John's Internet Café** 10am – 12pm in St John's Link  
Tuesdays: **Prayers** 8am at The Vicarage  
Wednesdays: **Holy Communion** 9.30am at All Saints.  
Wednesdays: **All Saints Café** 10am – 12pm in the Centre.  
Fridays: **St John's Rest Stop Café** 10am – 12pm in the Link.



Don't forget clocks go forward one hour this weekend  
Saturday/Sunday evening.

## Talk by Judi Witcomb

The chapter opens with Lazarus of Bethany, the brother of Mary and Martha, falling critically ill. Mary had previously anointed Jesus with fragrant oil, identifying her as a devoted follower (John 11:2). The sisters send a message to Jesus: “Lord, he whom You love is sick.” This phrasing emphasizes the close relationship between Jesus and the family, rather than directly requesting healing. It sets the stage for Jesus to demonstrate that His actions follow God’s timing, not human urgency.

Mary and Martha did not specifically ask Jesus to come and heal Lazarus. They felt they did not need to, that it was enough to simply tell Jesus what the problem was.

Jesus declares that Lazarus’ illness will not end in death but will glorify God, revealing His divine purpose behind the event. Despite His love for Lazarus, Jesus delays His visit for two days, illustrating that apparent delays are not denials but opportunities for God’s glory to be revealed. Jesus is wanting to increase his close follower’s belief by teaching them that physical death is not the end.

There was a belief at the time that the spirit of the dead didn’t leave until the third day, maybe this was the reason for the delay by Jesus, to show Lazarus was totally dead and no one could claim otherwise.

However, He knew that the events recorded in this chapter would set the religious leaders in determination to kill Him. This meant the end result would be that the Son of God may be glorified in His death and resurrection. He also showed His compassion to Martha and Mary when they showed both their grief and disappointment that He had not been there to heal Lazarus. Jesus wept with them, realising the depths of their grief and John reminds us that Jesus did genuinely love these sisters and their brother. It was an important reminder, showing that a testing of their faith was not a denial of His love. A message to us all that when we are tested by life, we need to remain faithful to our faith.

Jesus could have raised Lazarus from a distance because of the opposition from the religious leaders, Judea was a dangerous place for Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus was willing to go to Judea again – despite the warnings from His disciples.

Jesus knew His time was running out and He wanted to try to get his disciples and friends to understand that earthly death was not the end. He needed them to use their imaginations and what faith they already had to believe in eternal life. This raising of Lazarus was to give them something real to think about and eventually link with what is about to happen to Jesus. We have the whole gospel to fit together to make sense for us but the disciples and Mary and Martha were living in the moment and would have been quite confused by talk of life after death. Jesus speaks of

sleeping and the disciples can only take that to mean exactly what is, but Jesus was speaking of death before waking in eternity.

We see at the end of the events of this chapter that grief was comforted, life was restored, many more believed, and the necessary death of Jesus was set in motion. All of these were reasons to be glad. Quite a challenge isn't it.

Jesus knows that the time has come to go to Jerusalem but His disciples are nervous and scared for Him. He isn't afraid because he knows it is his destiny. He is ready to bring Lazarus to life. When he arrived not only Martha and Mary had expected Jesus to come and heal but so did the crowd of mourners.

Jesus was fully capable of this miracle without the faith of Martha or Mary. But if they would not believe, then they would never see the glory of God. They could see the end result and be happy in that their brother was alive again but they would miss the deeper meaning. Jesus wanted them to understand that he had the power to defeat death if only they would believe. He was calling on all His followers to have faith. He spoke directly to Lazarus who came out of the tomb. Lazarus arose bound in grave-clothes, for he would need them again. When Jesus arose, He left His grave-clothes behind in His tomb, never again having need of them.

What does this mean for us today?

These bible stories are about staying awake. We must keep our faith alive by bible study prayer and coming together to worship. Staying awake also means action. We can help each other to stay awake by showing our love and compassion in our community and bringing others to know about the amazing power of faith in Jesus. Jesus shows us there is no fear in death. If we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life so earthly death is just a curtain between this world and the next.

We have the gospels to give us the full picture of God's glory but the disciples didn't. They put their trust in Jesus and took the brave decision to accompany him to Jerusalem and the dangers ahead. We need to be like them and take our steps forward into this dangerous and troubling world knowing Jesus has our backs and will accompany us through everything we face. Also, we need to remember that God has His own timing and because it is different to ours it doesn't mean He has abandoned us. So be patient and keep strong in the faith of our Lord Jesus. God is with us always.

## Notices

**St John's Easter Lilies** – Please make sure you have put the names of those you wish to be remembered this Easter on the lily list by this Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Food Bank** – The food bank collection at St John’s is restarting. If you would like to donate food items (no fresh food), there is a box at the back of St John’s Church. Thank you.

**Walk of Witness 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - The churches together Walk of Witness will start from Our Lady of Lourdes car park at 11.15am and we will walk by the Parade and All Saints and finish at Mickleover Methodist where refreshments will be served. All welcome to join.

**Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – All Saints flower team will be decorating the church from 10am. If you are available to help, you would be most welcome. Donations towards the cost of the flowers may be left with Rebekah in the Office. Thank you. *Celia Cullen*

**Revision of the St John’s Electoral Roll** - is taking place. If you are not already a member and you would like to join, are over 16 or you will be 16 during the next year, please complete an application form to be found at the back of the Church and hand it to a member of the Clergy, a Church Warden or Andrew Templer (Tel: 01332 515293 or [andrew@templerfamily.co.uk](mailto:andrew@templerfamily.co.uk)). Please complete, at the same time, a Church GDPR Consent form giving us expressed permission as to how we can use your contact data.

**All Saints Electoral Roll** - If you are not already and would like to be included on the electoral roll, please complete a form from the back of church and return it to the office, Clergy, Wardens or James Bowles. If you are already on the Electoral Roll, you do not need to take any action, unless you have moved address in the past year.

**Burundi** - Rev Noe Bukuru has sent his heartfelt thanks for our donation, and their joy at being able to give 59 of their poorest families food for a week. He has also told me that they are hoping to be able to feed families at Easter. As we now have all the relevant systems working properly at our bank, we are intending to send a donation to them on a monthly basis, which, should anyone wish to make a personal donation, we can add to that. To make a donation speak to Rebekah or Janice. Thank you.

**All Saints Garden of Remembrance Hedges** – We have begun the removal of the dead and dying box hedges surrounding the Garden of Remembrance. We will shortly be planting Japanese holly to replace it. We currently have half the money that we need to pay the full cost, £240. If you would like to make a donation towards the rest, please contact the office or leave a labelled envelope in the plate.

Easter Services			
Maundy Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Holy Communion w/ Stripping of Altar	7.30pm	All Saints
	Holy Communion w/ Stripping of Altar	7.30pm	St John’s
Good Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Morning Worship	10am	All Saints
	Walk of Witness	11.15am	OLOL
	Meditation	3pm	St John’s
Easter Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Communion	10am	All Saints
	Holy Communion	10am	St John’s
	Holy Communion	11am	St Andrew’s